Clearance of the reclamation of Saline and Alkaline land project of Karnataka

1303. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal for reclamation of Saline and Alkaline land to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Govvernment has since cleared the said proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) to (c) A proposal for Reclamation of saline and alkaline soils in Karnataka was received from the State Government of Karnataka. In September, 1987 the State Government was requested to send a revised proposal along with additional information. The revised proposal has been received in March, 1989 which is under consideration.

Long terms planning for import of Oil

1304. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are planning any long term measures for import of oils during this year; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): the Government are not planning any long term measures during this year for import of oils. Edible oil is imported to bridge the gap between demand for and domestic production of edible oils on year to year basis and the actual imports are carried out taking into account the availablity and prices of edible oils.

Setting up of sponge iron plants in the country

1305. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sponge iron plants that have been set up in the country so far (State-wise) both in public and private sector;

(b) whether some private sector companies have submitted fresh proposals for stting up of sponge iron plants;

(c) if so, the States where those private sector companies are intending to set up sponge iron plants; and

(d) the details of the proposals submitted by the private sector companies in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) 5 Sponge Iron Plants have so far been set up in the country, as follows —

Andhra Pradesh . .	1
Orissa	2
Bihar	1
Maharashtra . . .	1
TOTAL :	5

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There are a very large number of registrations by private sector companies for setting up of Sponge Iron Plants at various locations in the country. State-wise break-up of this list of registrations with total capacities, is attached as Statement (*see* below). However, it is not known how many of these intended projects would actually come up.

Statement

Number of units in different States holding industrial licences/letter of intent/registration certificate for production of sponge iron as on 2-5-1989.

Sl. No.	State	Number of Units	Total capacity in lakh tonnes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52	75.56
2.	Assam	6	11.57
3.	Bihar	9	12.10
4.	Goa, Daman & Diu	3	4.30
5.	Gujarat	4	23.00
6.	Haryana	8	8.30
7.	Karnataka	7	13.06
8.	Madhya Pradesh	48	73.10
9.	Maharashtra	24	83.30
10.	Orissa	12	29.70
11.	Rajasthan	5	6.60
12.	Tamil Nadu	3	2.13
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5	16.45
14.	West Bengal	8	14.50
		194	373.67

Requirement of underground or above ground railway transport system in the Country

1306. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the phenomenal increase in population and vehicular movement the mode of transport in Delhi has changed;

(b) whether the underground or above ground railway system has been found necessary; and

(c) if so, what are the steps being taken to improve the mode of transport in the big cities including Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) At present Delhi's requirement of mass transport is being almost entirely met by buses only. Therefore the Government attaches high priority for